



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending April 29, 2012

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. The theme for the week for most of the state seemed to be "return of the winter weather". Frost, sleet, snow, and cool temperatures swept over various parts of the state this week and hindered field activities. Farm activities for the week included manure spreading, spraying, and planting. Spring plowing is 82% complete, which is ahead of the 14% reported at this time last year and the 5-year average of 51%.

Nationwide as of April 22, 2012: Temperatures throughout the nation's midsection were near normal during the week, while portions of the West and Northeast noted weekly readings more than 9°F above normal. Mostly dry weather promoted a rapid fieldwork pace in many regions, allowing planting for many crops to progress at a record pace. Elsewhere, precipitation totaling at least twice the weekly normal was received across much of the nation's northern tier, along the Gulf Coast, and at scattered locations in the Southwestern and Mid-Atlantic States.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending Apr 29, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	27	65	7

Crop Progress: Corn planting continued and is 27% complete, ahead of 1% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 15%. Barley is 78% headed, which is ahead of last year's 12%, and the average of 18%. Winter wheat is 7% headed, behind the 12% at this time last year, but slightly ahead of the average of 6%. This year's oat crop is 92% planted, ahead of 8% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 58%. Oats are 56% emerged, compared with 3% last year and the average of 22%. Soybean planting is underway and is 5% complete, compared to 0% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 3%. Tobacco beds are 86% planted, slightly behind the 87% last year, and the average of 85%. Potatoes are 53% planted, compared to last year's 2%, and the average of 14%.

Corn: By April 22, producers had planted 28 percent of the nation's corn crop, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was ahead of normal in all estimating states except Iowa and Minnesota. Aided by favorable weather conditions, double-digit progress was evident in 10 of the 18 estimating states. By week's end, 9 percent of the corn crop was emerged, 7 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Soybeans: Nationally, 6 percent of the soybean crop was planted by week's end, 4 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Planting was most advanced in the Delta, where producers had at least 28 percent of their seed in the ground. Winter Wheat: Heading advanced 13 percentage points during the week, as favorable weather promoted a rapid crop development pace in many of the major producing regions. By April 22, forty-two percent of the winter wheat was at or beyond the heading stage, 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 27 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 63 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week but 28 percentage points better than the same time last year. Small Grains: Nationally, 82 percent of the oat crop was seeded by April 22, thirty-five percentage points ahead of last year and 25 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 58 percent complete by week's end, 20 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of the five-year average. Adequate soil moisture supplies, along with mostly warmer-than-normal weather, boosted crop conditions in many of the growing regions. Overall, two-thirds of this year's oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition. Comparable data from last year is not available, as this is the quickest year on record that emergence has surpassed the halfway mark, and the earliest crop conditions have ever been estimated.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 16% fair, 54% good, and 26% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 2% poor, 46% fair, 42% good, and 10% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 29% fair, 54% good, and 12% excellent. Timothy/clover conditions are; 1% very poor, 4% poor, 31% fair, 52% good, and 12% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 5% very poor, 8% poor, 36% fair, 35% good and 16% excellent. Peach conditions are; 1% very poor, 2% poor, 26% fair, 49% good, and 22% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 26% fair, 51% good, and 22% excellent.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 29, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - April 29, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	63	27	43	-8	0.63	3	1.46	-1.68	11	72	39	199
Franklin_AG	64	27	41	-10	1.02	5	1.72	-1.70	11	44	12	169
Meadville-Port	59	27	41	-8	0.62	4	1.48	-1.71	10	66	43	203
Clarion	61	26	39	-13	1.23	4	2.11	-1.44	11	36	-8	147
Springboro	60	24	40	-11	0.61	3	1.68	-1.38	12	39	2	137
Warren	66	27	40	-10	1.34	4	2.00	-1.42	12	46	21	161
North Central												
Bradford Region	62	24	37	-10	0.83	4	1.47	-1.81	10	46	33	149
Oswayo	63	25	37	-12	1.37	4	2.23	-0.82	9	28	9	99
Kane	61	22	39	-8	1.42	4	2.20	-1.32	11	28	16	113
Laporte	54	27	38	-14	1.42	4	2.77	-0.40	10	43	1	150
Lock Haven	68	28	44	-9	0.74	4	1.43	-1.55	11	72	26	262
Coudersport_1SW	63	23	37	-12	1.01	4	1.98	-1.07	13	26	7	104
Renovo	69	29	44	-9	1.00	4	1.65	-1.33	11	65	19	246
Ridgway	62	24	40	-9	0.97	4	1.57	-1.75	10	32	16	148
Stevenson Dam	67	28	43	-6	0.94	3	1.67	-1.65	9	51	35	216
Towanda	65	29	41	-11	1.59	4	2.53	-0.28	9	52	10	185
Wellsboro	62	25	38	-10	1.21	3	2.17	-0.11	9	38	23	143
Williamsport	63	30	44	-10	1.42	4	1.86	-1.27	10	107	38	310
Northeast												
Hawley	64	24	42	-7	1.08	4	1.53	-1.80	9	49	29	165
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	56	31	42	-10	1.78	5	2.53	-0.35	11	95	45	262
Susquehanna	59	27	41	-8	1.90	5	2.72	-0.79	10	53	36	174
West Central												
Butler	66	28	42	-10	0.61	4	1.63	-1.46	10	51	6	212
New Castle	69	28	43	-8	0.22	3	0.95	-1.98	9	54	22	224
Slippery Rock	65	21	42	-8	0.78	3	1.44	-1.59	8	50	23	219
Central												
Altoona/Blair	70	31	44	-10	0.61	3	0.87	-2.19	8	112	50	312
DuBois	61	25	40	-12	0.55	3	1.18	-2.05	10	63	33	204
Lewistown	70	32	46	-9	1.08	3	1.86	-1.00	11	98	18	320
Middletown	65	36	47	-9	1.16	3	1.88	-1.26	9	138	41	381
Prince Gallitzi	67	26	43	-8	0.94	3	1.43	-2.67	7	47	18	197
Selinsgrove	63	30	44	-10	1.23	4	1.92	-1.16	9	74	14	260
State College	66	31	43	-10	0.91	4	1.51	-1.30	12	79	32	267
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	63	30	46	-8	2.10	2	2.94	-0.47	7	120	50	338
Lehighton	60	32	45	-9	1.52	2	2.24	-0.93	6	82	19	268
Matamoras	59	30	44	-9	1.90	3	2.72	-1.12	7	78	29	268
Mt_Pocono	56	28	41	-7	1.84	4	2.75	-1.19	9	78	65	217
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	66	33	45	-8	0.79	5	1.62	-1.50	11	98	36	307
Indiana_PA	64	28	42	-11	1.05	4	1.79	-1.74	9	78	19	245
Myersdale	67	27	41	-11	0.62	4	1.47	-2.35	9	35	-7	164
Chalk_Hill	67	27	41	-13	1.17	4	3.06	-0.63	11	46	-29	180
Pittsburgh Intl	66	30	45	-9	0.37	4	1.28	-1.76	11	103	32	303
Connellsville	71	31	45	-9	1.20	4	2.42	-1.27	9	79	4	289
Waynesburg	70	28	45	-8	0.57	4	1.26	-2.09	8	61	8	249
South Central												
Biglerville	67	34	46	-10	1.08	4	2.40	-0.85	10	117	20	348
Everett	72	29	43	-9	1.17	4	1.79	-1.44	9	73	21	253
Hanover	67	31	46	-10	1.74	4	3.00	-0.25	10	102	5	321
Harrisburg_AP	67	35	47	-9	1.24	3	2.13	-1.01	9	152	52	397
South Mountain	66	29	43	-10	1.74	4	2.87	-0.19	10	62	3	236
York	65	30	45	-11	1.77	4	2.80	-0.68	11	102	2	307
Southeast												
Green Lane	64	32	47	-7	2.25	3	3.09	-0.50	8	111	47	341
Hamburg	62	30	45	-7	1.06	3	2.07	-1.62	7	98	54	315
West_Chester	66	28	46	-10	2.43	2	3.06	-0.65	5	110	18	320
Lancaster	64	33	46	-9	1.24	3	1.85	-1.47	9	118	45	338
Neshaminy Falls	65	29	48	-6	0.51	2	2.82	-1.04	7	116	45	365
New Holland	65	34	48	-6	0.35	1	2.59	-0.73	7	128	55	380
Philadelphia	66	38	50	-7	2.03	2	2.55	-0.95	5	184	74	453
Philadelphia NE	65	32	48	-9	1.97	2	2.34	-1.16	7	147	37	397
Reading	65	33	47	-7	1.32	2	1.94	-1.75	6	147	85	385
Sellersville	63	29	46	-8	2.00	1	3.16	-0.43	6	93	29	289
Doylestown_AG	64	32	48	-7	2.40	2	3.20	-0.66	8	121	50	355

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney

Adams County started the week with 0.2" of rain and Thursday evening another 0.2" of rain. Corn is being planted in the county by some producers. Now that it is in, they are hoping it comes up with the cooler temperatures we had this past week. Wheat and barley continue to grow in height. Barley is in head. Oats are coming along but need some sunshine and warmer temperatures to get it started. Hay is growing in height. Some forage may be cut beginning of May here if weather/field conditions permit. Fruit growers are hoping that the colder temperatures do not come to our area anymore as it will be an impact on their crops for 2012. Cherries already were hit hard but the apples and peaches and other fruits are still in a stage that cold temperatures will have affect on them. No apple blossoms will be around for the Annual Apple Blossom Festival to be held May 5-6 sponsored by the Adams County Fruit Growers Association. Very little vegetables have been planted to date as the temperatures are having producers on the precautionary side. The producers are hoping for good weather here so they have good crops, but Mother Nature can change that really quickly. They will be harvesting forage and planting at the same time so they will be extremely busy in fields since everything is 2-3 weeks early.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Brief powerful storms added some needed moisture this past week. Frosty morning temperatures continue to add to the uncertainty of the apple set. There is bud damage on all varieties with Red Delicious most affected. However at this time most growers anticipate having a crop. Peaches are shuck-fall with a variable crop by variety.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Keith Kline

Northern tier has had frost/freezing nights 7 days in a row.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

The week began with a heavy snowstorm in which the county saw between 8-12 inches of snow. Cold and windy all week with snow flurries. Conditions turned on Sunday with a beautiful sunny day. Little field work was done due to the snow and cold weather.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Good week for field work. The area received 1.25 inches rainfall for the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Frost, snow, sleet and cold weather slowed the field work. This past week weather damaged the fruit crops. Warren, Forest, Clarion County, and parts of Venango had over 3 inches of snow on April 24. The oats crop is off to a good start. Many farmers have plowed corn ground and when weather breaks will begin planting.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

Heavy snowfall caused apple blossoms to drop.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Showers this week hindered field work, but did get some barley chopped and some early alfalfa chopped for forage. With warmer weather this coming week we should see a lot of acres of corn being planted. Several cold nights had minor effect on fruit; will not see the full effects of the cool April for several weeks.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

Still have more plowing to do for corn and soybeans. It has been 2 weeks since the last oats has been planted. The first oats that were planted are doing well. Just hope that the little grass seed withstands all the cold frosty nights that we have had. Planted around an acre of potatoes. Planted around 7 acres of corn about 10 days ago and about 7 more 3 days ago. Hope to get more ground ready this week for more corn planting. Maybe the weather will decide to start staying warm so the grass will grow for making hay in a month. Hope everyone has a safe farming week!

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

The rain earlier in the week was much needed for the corn and soybeans that were planted. Another benefit of the rain was the loosening of soil where it was hardened and no-till drills could not get through. It is below average temperature for the month and seems to be delaying germination. Rye forage was harvested.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Soil temperature is still cool enough that it is holding back the early planted sweet corn. Farmers started planting field corn this week along with a few plantings of soybeans. Freeze and frost damage continued this week at least three nights. Final weather related damage assessments to area vineyards and orchards will be made in the near future.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield

Freeze Saturday morning injured sweet corn and strawberries with temps at or below 30. Cool and wet soil conditions prevented most field work during the week. Corn planting should pick up this week with warmer and drier weather on the way.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Another cold, dry, and windy week. Main activities for the week were planting, spraying and spreading manure.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Cold frosty nights have everything going backwards. Hay and pastures are standing still.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Accumulating snow on Monday melted quickly to provide some much needed moisture. Cool temperatures continue to postpone the beginning of serious corn planting.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 29, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	82	14	51
Corn, planted	27	1	15
Barley, heading or headed	78	12	18
Wheat, heading or headed	7	12	6
Oats, planted	92	8	58
Oats, emerged	56	3	22
Soybeans, planted	5	0	3
Tobacco beds, planted	86	87	85
Potatoes, planted	53	2	14

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 29, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	3	16	54	26
Oats	0	2	46	42	10
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	5	29	54	12
Timothy clover stand	1	4	31	52	12
Pasture	5	8	36	35	16
Peaches	1	2	26	49	22
Apples	1	0	26	51	22

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